

November 15, 2019

Dear IPoly Community,

Ensuring that the students attending IPoly High School have a safe, drug free, and healthy environment in which to learn and grow is one of the top priorities for the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and all IPoly staff. It is the priority of the Board of Education, and, we believe, a true reflection of our community's values and expectations.

In an effort to keep IPoly free of dangerous contraband, the school has partnered with Interquest Detection Canines and will begin to use specially trained, non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff members to the presence of substances prohibited by law, Board Policy and/or Administrative Regulations. (See attached letter for more details)

Detection Canine Resources

Video for Parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZZ2dtuFJig>

Video for Students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45dmbnRZLcQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLI41VmbGRQ>

Because our focus is on safety and prevention, the vaping crisis has become another health concern for high schools. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 out of every 4 middle and high school students uses electronic vaping products. Common additives used in electronic cigarettes include nicotine, flavorings and caffeine. In high doses, these substances may have negative effects on adolescent brain development. Additionally, e-cigarettes are devices that can be used as a delivery system for cannabinoids and potentially other illicit drugs.

In an effort to combat this health and safety crisis, IPoly will be installing vape detectors. The sensor devices, which resemble smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, can detect vaping in places such as the school bathrooms by identifying the chemicals that are odorless in the aerosol released when someone vapes. These devices are equipped to also detect THC oil, a compound found in marijuana and pick up sound abnormalities like shouting, which could be helpful in preventing bullying and fights.

Once detected an internal alarm and notification is sent to administration, which then can be investigated if necessary. The goal of a search is not to 'catch people' or 'scare students' but rather to serve as a deterrent, reinforce our educational efforts with regard to illicit drugs, and send a clear message that illegal drugs are not tolerated in our school. Education, prevention and safety are at the forefront of these safety measures.

Current Articles:

1. <https://www.theunion.com/news/education/teen-vaping-a-concern-for-nevada-county-administrators/>
2. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-new-steps-address-epidemic-youth-e-cigarette-use-including-historic-action-against-more>

3. <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/vitamin-e-acetate-tied-to-vaping-illnesses--cdc-66701>
4. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html

Vaping Videos for Parents:

1. Identify which products teens are vaping: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjDP8rTktWw>
2. From a Hospital's Viewpoint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSmEsaXLXp4>
3. A Parent's Guide to a New Epidemic: <https://vimeo.com/285704355>

Vaping Videos for Students:

4. The Dangers of Vaping: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMaOyC6aFWM>
5. Education and E-Cigs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r16BQZCDSEA>
6. Sept 11, 2019: ABC Nightline: 18 Year Old
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlyzUVfpN4>
7. <https://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/teen-fight-life-vaping-cartridge-day-65530298>
8. July 18, 2018 Vaping in Schools: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INs19kGAnLU>
9. August 19, 2019 Teen Blames vaping for lung collapse:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hI473QvIK24>
10. August 22, 2019: ABC News: Doctors believe Teen Hospitalized :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3hCh9HZkQI>

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California Education Code 49050, District Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) 5805.1 provide for the authorization of searches to protect the health and welfare of students and staff; such that, school officials may search students, their property (backpacks), and/or District property under their control and may seize illegal, unsafe, or otherwise prohibited items.

If you have any questions you may reach out to the school and an administrator can answer any questions. Thank you for partnering with us in providing a safe and healthy school environment here at IPoly.

Sincerely,

IPoly Administration